

When Germany launched her offensive she did the best thing that could have happened to the Allies. That is "The Meaning of Verdun" as Winston Spencer Churchill interprets it, in this week's

Collier's
THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

PERSHING TO QUIT AS CARRANZISTAS PRESS ON BANDITS

Joint Peace Commission Expected to Complete Agreement This Week

STRONG PATROL PLANNED

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 14.—General Pershing's column will be out of Mexico soon if present plans of the American-Mexican Peace Commission materialize.

The commission proposes to reach a border agreement, probably before the week-end. With doubt over the election panned, the commission today began to put in its finishing work.

As tentatively framed, the border agreement will call for immediate or gradual retirement of Pershing's men from their posts below the boundary. In the meantime General Carranza will endeavor to show good faith by having General Murguía prosecute more vigorously than heretofore the hunt for Villa and his bandits. Murguía succeeds Trevino as commander of Chihuahua.

The proposed agreement likewise will look toward adequate security of the border, with the Mexicans assuming a larger share of this protection than previously. In planning for Pershing's withdrawal the Americans will be guided by American military men's advice that his stay is strategically useless.

With the prospect of getting together after eleven weeks of conferences, the Mexicans especially were overjoyed today. Various internal reforms have been pledged by the Mexicans, but it is doubtful if many of these will be incorporated in a formal agreement.

MEXICAN LEADERS TO MEET

Luis Cabrera, Commissioner to U. S., Coming Here for Conference With Rafael Nieto, His Assistant

Luis Cabrera, Secretary of the Department of the Treasury of Mexico, and Rafael Nieto, the First Secretary, will confer tonight at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Senior Cabrera is one of the Mexican commissioners at the peace conference in Atlantic City, and will come here to meet his chief subordinate, who is at the Bellevue. Senior Nieto denied this morning a report that the conference here is for the purpose of initiating a big loan by American capitalists, chiefly Philadelphians, to Mexico. He said that while he would not discuss what he intended to talk about with the Mexican commissioner, except to say that it had to do with the affairs of the Treasury Department, he would go so far as to put a stop to the story of negotiations in Philadelphia for a loan to Mexico.

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MIGHTY PETITIONS SIGNED FOR FIREMEN OF CITY

Continued from Page One

Institutions, lawyers, clergy and other professional men were on the roll. Politicians seemed to have forgotten party and factional differences in the general support of the firemen's request. A single line separated the autographs of State Senators Edwin H. Vane and James P. McNichol, former Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg, E. T. Stotsbury, John Wanamaker, Archbishop Prendergast, Bishop Gardiner were conspicuous in the list of individual supporters.

From this noted category the personnel of the signers ranged. Every rank of life in the great variety of men that go to make up the city's population down to the humblest householder was included in the list, which included as Chief Executive of the municipality toward obtaining for the 971 members of the Bureau of Fire an increase of pay and a readjustment of working hours commensurate with the service demanded and faithfully performed, as well as a standard of remuneration that would lift Philadelphia's firemen to a par with their brethren in other American cities.

The signatures to the petition to the Mayor were obtained by a committee of citizens headed by Mr. Lynch and by the firemen themselves. For several weeks members of the fifty-eight engine, eighteen truck, seven chemical, two water tower and one fireboat companies, comprising the "field apparatus" of the Fire Bureau, have been sacrificing much of their scanty time off duty to canvassing the city in behalf of their appeal.

A committee of five members of the bureau, representing the five grades of the service, has done yeoman labor in this behalf. This committee is headed by Battalion Chief John J. Meekill, of the eighth division, as chairman. The other members are Captain Joseph A. Knue, of Engine No. 49; Lieutenant John H. Wills, of Engine No. 59; Engineer Frederick L. Wagner, of Engine No. 55, and Ladderman James M. Slinger, of Truck No. 6, the latter representing the hose and laddermen.

The basis upon which the support of the Mayor is being solicited is a reorganization to conform to modern ideas of conditions which have existed in the department since the organization of the Bureau of Fire in March, 1871. The committee points out that today there are thirty-eight cities in the United States wherein the firemen are better paid than are those of Philadelphia. At the same time more time off is allowed to firemen in fifty-one cities than in Philadelphia. Here, Mr. Lynch and the members of the committee instance, a fireman when he enters the service as a hoseman receives \$900 for the first two years. He subsequently advances until he attains a maximum rating of \$1100 a year. First-grade firemen in New York receive \$1400, entering the service at \$1000. A recently enacted ordinance in New York raises a 1 grade \$100 annually, so that a man in that city gets \$1500 for what Philadelphia pays \$1100. New York's chief engineer re-

ceives \$16,000, as against Chief Murphy's \$1500, while his deputy, who has charge in Brooklyn and Queens, is paid \$7500, with fifteen other deputies at \$4200 each. Assistant Chief Ross Davis's salary is \$1000. Battalion chiefs in New York are paid \$1000 each, which is \$1000 more than is paid to the eleven equivalent officers in Philadelphia.

Comparison of the salaries paid in Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, smaller municipalities, show similar higher pay for relative equal rank, even Atlantic City, which has the two-platoon system, paying 18 hosemen and laddermen \$1500 each.

To this end an ordinance has been prepared for introduction into Councils covering the legislation necessary to make effective both the salary increase and the additional men required to place the department on a two-platoon, twelve-hour basis. This ordinance, in part, reads:

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do ordain, that the sum of \$243,379 be and the same is hereby appropriated to the Department of Public Safety (Bureau of Fire) for the year 1917, to provide for twenty per cent increase in salary to the present force of the uniformed men, and \$366,620 for 353 additional hose and laddermen and uniforms. In order that the uniformed men of the Fire Bureau shall have every fourth day off duty, and every other fourth day, thirty-six hours off duty.

At present Philadelphia's firemen are on duty at their stations twenty-one hours out of every twenty-four, the three hours off duty being nominally meal hours. They get these if they are not on duty at the moment at a fire or other active service. The hour in time from the moment they leave the firehouse until they return. In the case of men who are detailed at stations remote from their homes the actual time possible for intercourse with their families is a matter of a few minutes for each meal. The firemen get every sixth day off, also nominally. A shortage of

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men, through injury or sickness, or a transfer to another company to relieve such a shortage, may deprive a man so relieving of his day off for several weeks. During the car strike a few years ago no member of the department was permitted to go home from quarters for fifty-six consecutive days. One captain, whose company is located in the business district, today recalled that his tour of house duty during the trolley strike lasted for thirteen consecutive weeks, during which time he was able to remove his clothing only for bathing.

The proposed system by which conditions such as these could be obviated is thus summarized by the committee, which has laid its suggestions before the members of Councils in the hope of securing appropriate legislation to make it effective:

"We suggest that four men be added to engine companies, making a quota of sixteen men to an engine company;

"Three men to be added to a truck company, making a quota of sixteen men to a truck company;

"Three men to be added to a chemical company, making a quota of eight men, and three men to each auxiliary truck company.

"The quota of the fireboat and three pipe line companies to be stated.

"Working hours: Every fourth day off.

with additional twelve hours every second fourth day.

"Thirty-six men to be distributed equally among battalion chiefs.

"This system could be worked out to a great advantage to the department and city in general. There would be twelve men on duty each day, allowing for one man to be detailed to fire prevention, one man to fire school and ten men on duty at station during the day; meal hours, with no more than three away at a time, would still leave eight men at station during meal hours. In addition to this, the battalion chief would have additional three men to distribute to companies in his battalion where they were short.

58 engine companies, 4 additional men 232
18 truck companies, 3 additional men 48
7 chemical companies, 3 additional men 21
1 fire boat 4
3 high-pressure companies, 3 for the 9
2 auxiliary companies, 4 men each 8
20 men to be assigned to 11 battalion chiefs 20

Total 353
Number of men in year 353
Number of hours on duty 353
Number of hours on duty 353

Also an increase of twenty per cent in salaries.

CARRANZA'S TRACTABILITY DELAYS WASHINGTON ACTION

U. S. Encouraged by Extension of Mine Operation Limit

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—Announcement by Luis Cabrera, of the commission at Atlantic City, that Carranza has extended to next January the time within which mine owners in Mexico must reopen their properties, has delayed firm action by the State Department for annulment of the decree. The time originally set by General Carranza expired today, the penalty being confiscation of all unoperated mines. This decree drew bitter resentment from about 150 American owners of mines in Mexico, and a vigorous protest was made by the State Department to General Carranza against this retroactive measure.

Carranza's optimistic statements that General Pershing's troops soon will be withdrawn from Mexico is not shared in Washington. It is explained that if Senor Cabrera's hopes for evacuation are based upon his promise of leniency with the mine owners, he may have to wait a long time for their fulfillment.

Carranza will be pressed to abandon alto-

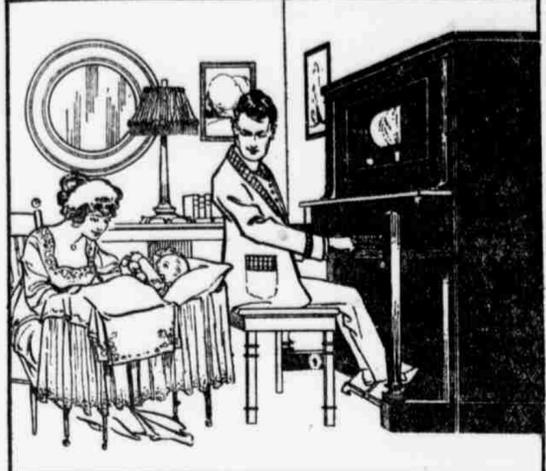
gether his design to confiscate unworked mining property.

This mining decree is regarded here as one of the most "high-handed" the Firm Chief has issued. Officials declare that its acceptance by the United States would be acquiescence in a deliberate attempt to rob Americans of their property by executive order.

State Department officials declared that the mining decree was responsible for needless exposing of Americans to danger in the Chihuahua mining district, where especially around Parral, citizens of the United States have been attempting to get back to their properties.

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